

Industrial District Council of New York  
150 Bedford St., New York 17, N.Y.





Objection was again raised against further continuation of the case until Connolly would be present himself. T. J. Cole moved that the matter presentation of charges by DeLoe be postponed until the Industrial District Council of New York City given a chance to have defendants and witnesses summoned to be able to present their side of the case. Motion carried.

As none of the witnesses nor the defendant in the case were present, a motion was made by Katz, seconded by Cole, that the DeLeon Connolly matter be taken up at 9 o'clock a. m. next morning. It was carried.

The letter written by Otto Just to DeLeon was the next subject for discussion. The letter, could in no way be considered as emanating from the general office, typewritten on plain paper, the reference therein about certain remarks which DeLeon was supposed to have made at the last convention of the I. W. W. about Connolly, was based on general information undoubtedly gained from hearing a general discussion of delegates in the general office, when inquiries were made by them as to the personality of the "walking delegate" mentioned in the arguments of DeLeon on the floor of the convention.

This was the explanation of General Secretary-Treasurer Trautmann. However, as the two handwritings in the many corrections made in the letter indicated a collusion, in some way, a motion was made by Katz, seconded by Cole, that it is the sense of the general executive board that Otto Just be requested to reveal the name of the party, or parties, who helped him make the corrections in that letter. Trautmann asserted that such "personal letter" information-bureaus have done lots of injury to the organization already; too much of such "personal letter" transactions have been transferred, to his knowledge, in the I. W. W., and if assistants in the office should be guilty of such breach of confidence, and be a party to "wire-pulling" they should be treated accordingly.

The following motion was adopted: "That knowledge of affairs transpiring within the organization gained by reason of employment in the office of the I. W. W., if intercepted in their correspondence in I. W. W. matters, be cause for immediate dismissal."

#### ORGANIZING OF WORKERS IN THE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE

The secretary read letters from Covington Hall of New Orleans, La., and his answers thereto, all pertaining to the formation of an industrial union of Telephone and Telegraph workers. C. Hall outlined in his letters the chances of organizing all employees in the telegraph and telephone service in the Southern States, with New Orleans as the central agency for propagandizing work. That the union of New Orleans, which has the title of "International Telegraph and Telephone Workers' Union," had already decided to apply for a charter from the I. W. W.; and he asked whether said union was allowed to spread out and organize branches in other localities; such branches to receive the charters through the Industrial Union in New Orleans.

Prior to the arrival of St. John in Chicago, Trautmann had assumed the duty to explain in detail his opinion on the proposition made; and he read his replies, in which it was explained why the efforts to be made in organizing the telegraph and telephone workers should emanate from one central point in a given district.

Brief discussion followed. A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Katz, that the details of plans for organizing workers in the telegraph and telephone service (wire transmission service) be left to the general secretary-treasurer and general organizer. Motion carried.

#### COAL MINERS' AFFAIRS.

The secretary-treasurer gave a brief review of the work done in the coal mining districts; that immediately after the close of the third convention of the Industrial Union were sent out into mining camps asking whether arrangements could be made for mass meetings with General Organizer St. John as speaker; that not one unfavorable reply was received, that some of the biggest unions of the United Mine Workers agreed to pay all expenses for mass meetings; that these mass meetings had to be postponed owing to St. John's physical condition, but that undoubtedly the time is ripe to make concerted moves to organize every mining camp a group of volunteers organized, preparatory to calling a convention for the formation of a national industrial union of coal miners.

But the only objection to the successful consummation of such plans were the high dues and fines checked off the wages of coal miners by the companies, and it would be hard to organize these pioneer unions if the members thereof would have to pay 15 per cent tax to headquarters. Lots of men could be organized and educated in revolutionary industrial unionism if only the check-off system would be abolished.

Arguments on these views were exhaustive; Katz, who had been organizing in Pennsylvania, stated that from personal observation he gained the knowledge that the coal miners in the anthracite district were waiting to be organized in the I. W. W.; that the United Mine Workers had lost all prestige among them; that in a meeting called by the U. M. W. with their National Secretary-Treasurer Wilson as speaker, only 12 miners showed up. But in the anthracite region the United Mine Workers could not enforce the check-off system, and therefore not get the fines and the black-mail system against rebels established, and if they would try to do it there would be a revolt by the outraged slaves.

Yates argued that he would oppose any dispensation, no matter what the circumstances might be, to any of the wishes to bring to the front industrial unionism as advocated by the I. W. W. should not run shy of the 15 cent tax to headquarters; so as to put the general administration in a shape to propagate the principles with more effect, because of a better financial backing; coal miners were earning, comparatively taken, higher wages than textile workers, yet the latter never hesitate to put up their share to carry on the work of the organization.

A motion was made by Cole, seconded by Katz, that the general organizer be authorized to make provisions that coal miners when organized in the I. W. W. be allowed ten-cent dispensation in dues per month per member; in such districts where the check-off system is established; this rule not to be opera-

tive in districts where the United Mine Workers' check-off system and mining system is not established. Motion carried. In favor of Cole, Williams, Katz. Against: Wm. Yates.

The secretary-treasurer read a lengthy document submitted to the general executive board by Local Union No. 163 of Jersey City, N. J.; with suggestions to inaugurate a movement for an eight-hour day in the machine and metal industries. In the document were proposed tactics and plans as were effectively operated in the eight-hour movement in France; also a request was made to start the propaganda at once on the lines laid out; and ask that the circulars and working plans be put in print.

Owing to the fact that the printing of the whole matter would necessitate an immediate expense of approximately \$1,000, the board decided unanimously to postpone action temporarily, and the general secretary-treasurer was instructed to convey the reasons for such action to the local union of Jersey City, N. J.

At the hour of 7 o'clock had arrived a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Katz, that the board adjourn. Motion carried.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 1907.

Meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock A. M. by Chairman Williams. Charges of DeLeon against Connolly were taken up. Connolly was present, as were many others.

Fellow Worker DeLeon began to sum up the charges. He started out with explaining the situation of a man who is with one foot in the S. L. P. and with the other in the I. W. W.; that the injury done to one foot must certainly not affect the other, that consequently the mischievous act of one man in the S. L. P. must cast their reflex in the doings of the I. W. W.

He went at length into discussion of the destructive effect of an article appearing in the *Industrial Union Bulletin* of October 26th, No. 35, contributed by James Connolly, entitled "Wages and Prices," in which "Connolly uses *The Bulletin* to assail the record of the Socialist Trades and Labor Alliance, by asserting that said Alliance had taught false economics, whilst in reality the claim of Connolly that prices go up first before wages are increased is absurd and a false doctrine to propound. That James Connolly had used I. W. W. stationery to communicate with others, interjecting therein Socialist Labor party disputes into the I. W. W.; and one of such letters was introduced as evidence, but not read, that James Connolly and his followers in the District Council of New York had started a movement against the "Daily People" plant in trying to enforce the rule that I. W. W. printers be employed in the plant, which would have surely resulted in a strike of A. P. of I. printers employed in the plant; and no I. W. W. English printers available to operate the plant; that that was a premeditated plan to wreck and destroy "Daily People"; that the letter of Just to him (DeLeon) was another connecting link to prove an organized effort to throw a fight into the I. W. W.; that the statement of the general secretary-treasurer in his report to the G. E. B. against Markley aff contained the paragraph in which it is stated that the "Daily People" is used against the I. W. W." gave rise to the suspicion that that was a part of a plan to discredit the loyalty of the People's Party to the I. W. W. movement; that he had written to Trautmann letters asking for explanations on this as well as on the Connolly matter; that the latter replied on the "Markley affair," but failed to give satisfaction on the Connolly matter. That he, DeLeon, would certainly stand for the most rigid enforcement of discipline against men who would conduct themselves as Markley did.

At this point a member of the organizing committee of the District Council of New York would have a chance to be heard for the rebuttal of statements made by DeLeon.

Williams ruled that as long as the executive board allowed Fellow Worker DeLeon to present charges, the defendant, Connolly, had a right to summon all the witnesses he wants; including the columns of the "Daily People" to reference in the report against the "Daily People" was a premeditated attempt to injure that paper, as the clause referred to reads: "He (Markley) even used the columns of the 'Daily People' to misrepresent the I. W. W.," which was proven to be true; but if there should be any anxiety about the reference he would gladly make the statement that the "Daily People" never consciously attempted to do injury to the I. W. W. DeLeon then continued to depict the career of James Connolly in Ireland, how the record of the man proves him to be a destroyer and wrecker of any movement he had been connected with; that from Katz he had heard about Connolly's interference in Lancaster strike matters and the disastrous results thereof; that he (Connolly) had ruined the Socialist Labor Party in Ireland.

At this point T. J. Cole rose to ask a point of order. He wanted to know whether the chair would permit the injection of matters with which the I. W. W. had nothing to do; as for instance, the reference to Connolly's record in the Socialist Labor Party of Ireland.

The chair ruled that the point is well taken, and that such matters should not be injected because irrelevant.

Wm. Yates asked whether the parties of the controversy had exhausted all previous resources of launching complaints before bringing the matter up before the General Executive Board; and he asked for a ruling whether this matter comes within the province of the G. E. B.

The chair ruled that the parties to the controversy would have to go through the regular channels and the matter can only be presented to the general executive board after all other resources have been exhausted.

Katz appended the ruling of the chair. Katz stated the reasons for his appeal; he held that the matter should be decided and investigated on the ground that a constitutional clause provides that an organizer is subject to

supervision by the general executive board, and that Connolly by injecting in this case a matter of political party differences, for instance his criticism of the Socialist Trades and Labor Alliance, was violating one of the established rules, and that therefore the G. E. B. had jurisdiction in the case and could investigate the matter and enforce the law as regards the conduct of organizers.

Williams in explaining his ruling stated that the attitude of Connolly as organizer is not involved; if there is proof of an organizer's objectionable conduct, especially when such an organizer is maintained by an Industrial District Council, the general executive board may ask of a council to discipline such organizer, and failure of such council or a local union to comply may eventually cause the revocation of their charter; but as the local union is the smallest unit of the I. W. W., the general executive board cannot cognate in the right of such unions to dispose of such matters first, and then if in the proper course such matters reach the general executive board, the same will know that all previous resources have been exhausted, and that the matter is now in the hands of the G. E. B. as an attempt to inject S. L. P. matters into the I. W. W.; inasmuch as the Socialist Trades and Labor Alliance was considered an economic organization.

Vote on the appeal was taken by roll-call: Katz voted not to sustain the chair; Cole, Yates and Williams voted to sustain the decision. The chair was sustained.

Fellow Worker DeLeon asked the chair what course to pursue so that the matter may eventually reach the general executive board.

The chair stated that charges of such nature must first be submitted to the local union of which the organizer is a member; an appeal may be taken to the Industrial District Council by either side to a controversy, and the last appeal can be taken to the general executive board if all other means are exhausted. He ruled that as his ruling was made by roll-call: Katz voted not to sustain the chair; Cole, Yates and Williams voted to sustain the decision.

This disposed of the matter, and other questions were immediately taken up. Katz asked whether he as member of the G. E. B. has a right to prefer charges on account of the conduct of an organizer of the I. W. W. He was asked to proceed with presentation of his charges upon which he would claim that Connolly is disqualified to act as organizer. Katz repeated his charges relating to the Lancaster strike; stated the case of the strike, the gallant conduct of the men and girls. He told about the return of these two men who had gone to New York and returned to Lancaster spreading the report of the statement which had been made by Organizer Connolly; that McRoe was one of the young men who made these statements in the meeting, and as a result thereof many got discouraged and precipitated a stampede back to their places.

Connolly stated in reply that the two men had come to New York were at the headquarters of the I. W. W., where they stated in presence of witnesses that they had a letter from Lancaster in which it was stated that most of the men of the union had returned to work and they were disheartened on account of that. His statement was: "It's hard to understand that the workers so soon after being organized, went out on strike," and that the statement was overheard by Fellow Worker Campbell.

Campbell corroborated the statement of Connolly.

Chairman Williams ruled that not sufficient evidence had been submitted by Katz to substantiate his charges against Fellow Worker Connolly.

Katz asked a question relative to statements made regarding the organizing of New York harbor workers. Connolly stated in reply that he had given a full report of what had transpired to ask from the general executive board specific points of instructions. He could only repeat what the official committee of the Longshore Workers had told him and the organizing committee. If that committee had given him false information on any point, of which Connolly, however, was not aware, it was not his fault, and he should not be held responsible.

Secretary Trautmann suggested that the organizers' matters be taken up. The board had decided not to send any organizer out until all obligations were settled; only those who could sustain themselves were to be allowed to stay in the field, and this is virtually being done by Walsh, Ettor and Williams. Heslewood had his hands full in Montana and is doing great work; the locals of New England are contributing richly to keep Thompson in the field, who, by his timely arrival in Bridgeport, had secured \$250 for the organizing fund; so that he, Thompson, is practically all self-sustaining. Katz had to stay in Lancaster to conduct the fight, but that having over, some other arrangements would have to be made, but finances would not permit the placing of any more organizers in the field.

Fishes in behalf of the Industrial District Council of New York, asked that Williams be permitted to stay in New York City, as there would be ample work for him among the harbor and metal workers.

Yates explained that the New-England Conference may make arrangements to allow Thompson, as being a harbor worker himself, to stay a few weeks in New York City, and they would then have Williams for a while.

Motion made by Katz, seconded by Yates, that Fellow Worker Williams be placed immediately in Philadelphia, with understanding that he should soon return to New York City, and later again proceed to Philadelphia. Motion carried.

The situation in the anthracite region was again taken up, and prospects of organizing the miners thoroughly considered.

The general secretary-treasurer stated that he would not guarantee prompt payment to any organizer, especially since one-third of all members, if not more, are out of employment. Katz stated that he would have to decline to act as organizer, because he is in such a position that he would have to have the assurance of prompt payment, but he

would offer a motion that an organizer be stationed in the Scranton, Pa., coal district as soon as finances permit. Yates amended that within two months, if finances should permit, Katz be stationed in the Scranton district. Motion as amended carried.

Trautmann brought up the disparaging effect on the progress of the I. W. W., because the differences about the two political parties that claim to represent the working class politically are being brought into the meetings and the work of the I. W. W., and suggested the adoption of a resolution setting forth the opinion of the general executive board on the matter.

Cole moved, seconded by Yates, that a quest be sent to all members, requesting them to argue and settle the differences on matters pertaining to the two political parties that claim to represent the working class politically in the meetings of said parties; and not inject them into the I. W. W., in that they should bear in mind the declaration embodied in the preamble that the unification of the working class on the political field is desirable. Motion carried.

No further business being before the board, motion was made by Cole, seconded by Katz, to adjourn sine die. Motion carried.

WM. E. TRAUTMANN,  
Gen. Secy-Treas.

#### Textile Workers Hold Successful Meeting

Following is a brief report of a meeting held in New Bedford, Mass., Jan. 19, under the auspices of Textile Workers' Industrial Union Local No. 157, "Polish Branch." The chairman, J. W. a few brief remarks, opened the meeting and called upon Secretary Wm. Yates as first speaker and he outlined the condition of the working class in the United States and textile workers in particular; how efforts made upon the lines of craft unions were utterly inadequate to cope with the conditions as they exist; he pointed out the disastrous strikes that have taken place in Fall River, New Bedford, Philadelphia; how fierce have scabbed on weavers and weavers scabbed upon them all. He referred to the traitorous conduct of the so-called labor leaders, which, coupled with the ignorance of the rank and file, was responsible for this condition of affairs; the strike of the Boston newsboys against the Boston American (Hearst's) and the said Boston American still being published by union printers and carrying the union label on their papers. He stated that the union of professional strike breakers, was pointed out as another example of the impotency of a craft union carrying on and waging a strike. Yates further pointed out that it is absolutely necessary to organize industrially, not only to wring concessions from the capitalist class, but to finally overthrow this system of exploitation.

The chairman then called upon Fellow Worker A. J. Webb to speak upon the condition of the working class in Poland and contrasted the condition of the workers there and here; how they had been driven from their native land by one set of plunderers to be further plundered by another set of capitalists far more unscrupulous than their former masters. Bigos, who is quite an orator, held the floor for 40 minutes and was listened to with marked attention and at the conclusion of his talk received quite a ovation of Fellow Worker Webb was then called upon and during his speech of one hour and a quarter gave the local capitalists and their lieutenants the grilling of their lives. He used the cleverest sarcasm, of New York as an example of strikes fought on craft lines, and pointed out how the workers were betrayed by Gompers, Mahon and Stone; he also used the recent Civic Federation banquet in New York, when speakers had spoken and worked his hearers up to a fine pitch of enthusiasm.

At this point Webb paid his respects to Mitchell and told how he had organized the coal miners into separate districts with separate contracts to expire at different times, and said all this had been done at the desire of the coal barons; he also pointed out that with the coal miners organized industrially we had the key to the whole situation.

He then told of the conspiracy in the west, how Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone had been kidnaped and held almost two years before being tried, how they had emerged triumphantly from the battle of Idaho. The conditions in Goldfield were next touched upon and the part St. John had played there; how he, St. John, had been literally ridden with bullets, how the capitalist press had treated the affair, and that Mullany was being favored upon and petted like any other pet poodle of the capitalist class. Webb closed by explaining the system of organization, and told that local 157 was divided for educational purposes into four language branches. Taken all in all, it was one of the finest meetings that has ever been held in this city and speaks volumes for the organizing ability of Webb and our Polish fellow-workers. In this Polish branch there are probably three or four men who can take the platform, and they are willing at all times to visit any of the surrounding cities for propaganda purposes for bare expenses. These men should be kept at work; they are good material and willing. There were 400 present and they stayed to the finish.

Wm. Yates.

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#### From the Mexican Defense Committee

Los Angeles, Jan. 20, 1908.

Comrades and Fellow-Workers: We are writing you in behalf of the alleged Mexican revolutionists, Messrs. Magon, Villarreal, Rivera and Serabia. Three of these men were arrested here on the 23rd of August last, and have been imprisoned on one charge or another ever since that date. The Mexican government has tried in every way to extradite these men to Mexico. Failing in this they have determined to keep them in prison upon some charge in this country, in order that they might not conduct their agitation by correspondence in Mexico. This is a persecution, and we are able to state that much of the essential evidence produced at the hearing was perjured and forged. Without the perjured testimony of Vasquez and the forged instrument, which they claim is a roster of officers, there could be no conviction.

It may be necessary to carry this matter to the United States Supreme Court on appeal. We would not hesitate to go to Arizona if we thought it were at all likely that we would have a trial there; but we have an affidavit in our possession to effect the Capt. Furlong, the detective, said that they did not care whether the charges were true; that all they wanted was to get the men to Arizona, and then they would take them over the line where they wanted them. You must know that Mr. Serabia was kidnaped by Mexican agents, co-operating with the American officers at Douglas, and was taken over the line into Mexico on June 30th, 1907. However, he was returned by order of the American government. If, however, these men are taken over the line they will be shot. Mr. Furlong testified at the hearing that he arrested these men without a

warrant, and that he was paid by the Mexican government to do so. The first charge made against the men after their arrest was that of resisting a public officer; next with murder in Mexico and entering this country contrary to the immigration laws; the next was libel in Missouri; the next was murder and robbery in Mexico. All of these charges have been successfully resisted. They were then charged with conspiring to violate the neutrality law, and are sought to be taken to Arizona, where the conspiracy is claimed to have been entered into, which would give Arizona jurisdiction of the offense. This would give a reason to transport the men into that territory. They would then have them near the Mexican line, and could take them over without difficulty.

We are writing you these facts that you may know the danger in which these men are placed and will be placed in the near future, and that you may know that we are sorely in need of funds for their defense. Being in prison, they are unable to reach their friends by correspondence, and hence are unable to raise funds themselves.

Trusting that you will be able to assist us in raising money for their defense, we are, respectfully yours,  
DEFENSE COMMITTEE.  
P. S.—Please forward all funds to Mrs. Mamie Shee, Secretary-Treasurer, No. 688 Ruth Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.  
Bonj. T. Weber, Cor. Rec.

At several important industrial centers last week the I. W. W. was successful in holding unemployed demonstrations without having heard of getting into jail. Seattle's jobless army, 8,000 strong, sent a committee with J. H. Walsh of the I. W. W. at its head, to visit the mayor, who confessed his inability to do anything. The only salvation for these thousands of unemployed men is in industrial organization and the control of the jobs which such organization necessarily means.

#### OUR BOOK LIST

WELOW we give a partial list of books which we are prepared to supply to readers of this paper. As will be seen the list contains many of the books with the contents of which Industrial Unionists should be familiar. They range from light, but instructive pamphlets, to the scientific and philosophical works of Labriola, Morgan and Marx. Any book in the list will be sent, postage paid, on receipt of price, and we ask all members of the organization and readers of this paper to order their books from us.

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